

The Bloomfield Record.

Household Hints.

We have often wondered by what power of adjustment the makers of moderate priced furniture contrive to make chairs and sofas a rule, in such outrageous and unbecoming shapes. Why indeed, should chairs be constructed with seats inclining forward, or with backs hollowed in below and protruding above, so as to furnish support to but two points, and these exactly beneath the shoulder blades? It is a positive labor to sit in such chairs, and no amount of disguise, in the shape of fancy covering or upholstery, should ever beguile a person into purchasing one. The proper shape for a chair is a broad, moderately low seat inclining rearward, and the back should be just the reverse of the form above described—in other words it should conform to the natural curvature of the spine. The frame becomes a support, and a comfortable rest for the body, while otherwise its tendency is to push the shoulders forward while the lower part of the person slides in the same direction on the seat, the result is that the occupant must either sit back in a round-shouldered position, or else balance himself on the very edge of the seat; in both cases finding himself the reverse of comfortable. The same remarks apply to sofas, and especially to those made with straight backs and in the pretty gothic forms which are now so fashionable. Buying furniture for comfort and buying it for looks are very different matters—in fact, there is a distinct class of furniture which is gorgeous in the eye but simple and useful in the body. It includes pine or whitewood chairs, covered with plush or velvet, gilding, and satin, which are meant to be admired but not to sit in; and an endless variety of brass-mounted tables, footstools, cabinets, and like objects the cost of which appears to augment in exactly inverse ratio to their utility. With such we have nothing to do here. We propose simply to talk about articles that can be used, and used comfortably.

For stuffing furniture, there is nothing equal to good white curled horse hair. It will last indefinitely, for it is susceptible to almost perpetual regeneration. There is no economy whatever in paying twenty or thirty dollars less for a set which is filled with tow, moss, excelsior, or any other of the numerous materials used as substitutes. To be sure, the articles look exactly as well in the beginning as if stuffed with hair; but a year's wear, evoked by the shaken seats and cushions, will speedily show the difference. It is better to select furniture before it is covered, as then a small hole, surreptitiously, if need be, poked in the side of a seat or back, will soon prove whether the salesman's too frequent protestations that "we use only the best hair" are founded upon fancy or fact.

While horse hair is most suitable for the inside, we have very little liking for the same material made into cloth as a covering for the exterior, although it is the most enduring of all materials. Hair cloth is black; and as the articles upon which it is used are the principal objects in the room, the general effect to our minds is funereal and depressing. The heavy deep shade cannot, when in such masses, be acceptably toned down by contrasts, nor can it be envisioned so that the general appearance of the room is rendered bright and cheerful.

Good stout woolen ropes are among the best fabrics to wear. Silk rope is just the reverse, while not one person out of ten can tell the difference in the fabric across a room. Flax is also very strong and lasting, though it is not suitable for a modestly furnished room. Sailing, though not equal to rope in wearing qualities, showing spots and dirt much easier, is by some considered handsome, and probably is better suited than the latter for a parlor.

In regard to color, the hues of the carpet, unless Turkish rugs are used, and that of the wall paper, are again to be taken into consideration. With a gray toned wall and carpet, crimson is the proper shade for the furniture. Blue looks nicely with a rich dark carpet having no green in it, or with a blue carpet of a harmonizing shade. Crimson or green furniture accords well with either brown or green carpeting. Brown upholstery requires a green carpet. Covering furniture with two distinct colors or shades is now quite common, and is preferred by many to a single shade or color throughout. The body of the piece is upholstered in gray rep, for example, and the edge surrounded with blue puffs. There is a variety of pretty combinations of colors, of which in such a case advantage may be taken. Deep blue and gold—brown, chocolate and bright blue, gray and pink, maroon and warm green, claret and buff, are instances in which the tints make pleasing contrasts.

We prefer a wooden top covered with a handsome cloth, to a marble slab, for a table. There is something cold and uncanny about marble; it makes us think of a burial tablet, such as one sees in country churches.

In arranging furniture about a room, bear in mind that it is not necessary to push every article pithily out to the sides, so that the sofas and chairs look as if they were glued to the wall. Pull them out; put a sofa across one corner; stand the big easy chair in the light, with a little table close by, handy for sewing or books; leave a chair or two in front of the sofa; and in general so dispose the articles that the room shall not appear as if its owners never entered it save on ceremonial occasions. Whether a room is pleasing and cozy or not does not depend upon the elegance or coarseness of its fittings. The simplest furniture, if tastefully arranged as regards to color and position, often looks better than the handsomest products of the cabinet maker's skill.—Scientific American.

Varieties.

In the Island of Guernsey a very successful method of taming vicious horses during the operation of shoeing.

Shikarga, "The City of Shikarga," is the eloquent heading of a St. Louis editorial upon Chicago's delinquent tax list.

Two little girls brought out a horse, hitched it to a hayrack, and put out a fire in that place on Wednesday night before the firemen could arrive.

A Cincinnati woman tried to reach the bottom of the stairs ahead of a cat of vinegar, and the surgeon who fixed up her "broken bones" said she might try for a thousand years and get beaten every time.

There is a granger in a certain town in this State who is so "close" that he throws "intentional" ham bones to his dog, and the animal, after growling the point of, retire, dejected in the belief that they had partaken of a square meal.

Among the deeds and vanities of this world there are none more than the custom among corner houses of joining the crowds coming from church, and parading slightly down the street with benches and solemn manner, as though they were the most respectful church goers of the procession.

"Charles, are you into that jam again?" "No ma, the jam is into me."

A good time to pass around the hat—when it has a stone under it, and you're tempted to kick it.

The old maid in Athens, Ga., recently met in convention and resolved that the Legislature ought to make it a penal offense for any widow to marry again.

"This is not gain," said a witty Worcester girl, who found a valuable silk hair net hanging to the fringe of her shawl upon her return from an evening lecture.

Kansas teacher—"Where does all of our grain product go to?" Boy—"It goes into the hopper." "Hopper? What hopper?" "Grasshopper," triumphantly shouts the lad.

Amateurism, Queen of White.

It will be the interest of the ladies of Bloomfield and vicinity to call at Mrs. M. A. Harvey's Millinery Rooms, 23 door from Post Office, and examine the new and delightful perfume and face powder combined. Nothing like it has ever been offered for sale in this place. As a perfume it is beautiful and lasting, as a face powder it is equal. Try it. For sale only by Mrs. M. A. Harvey, Bloomfield, N. J.

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For HONE MILLS in Stock, \$9.00 the 1-2 Dozen.

We need not say it will be to your interest to examine before purchasing elsewhere.

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Newark, N. J.

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CHILDREN'S CARRIAGES.

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The Subscriber, calling attention to his Business Card as above, and thankful for the patronage bestowed for the past thirty-one years by the people of Bloomfield and adjacent towns and country, solicits a continuance of the same, trusting that a strict attention to all business entrusted to him, will merit their favor in the future as in the past.

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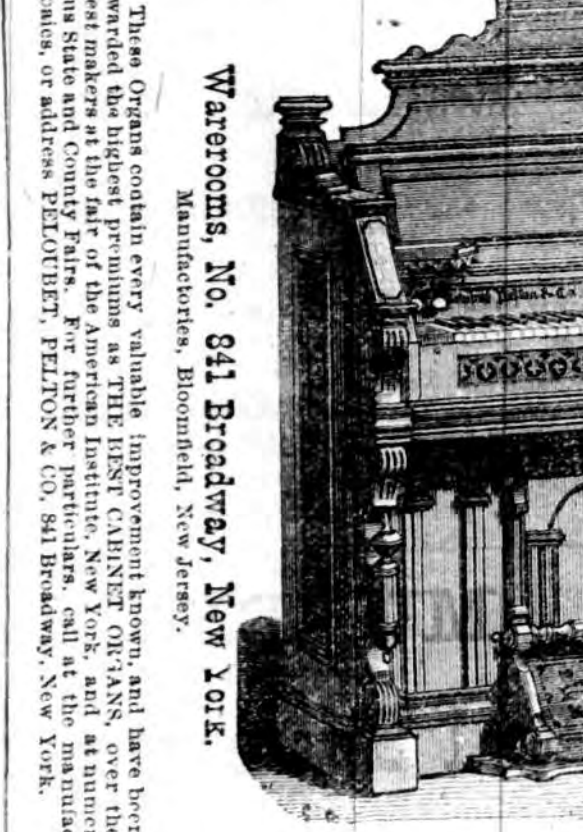
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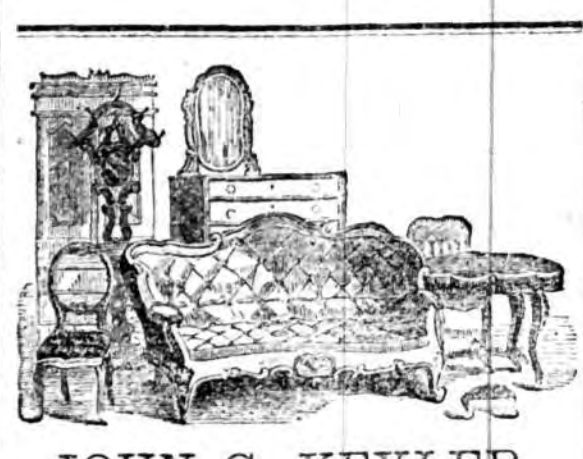


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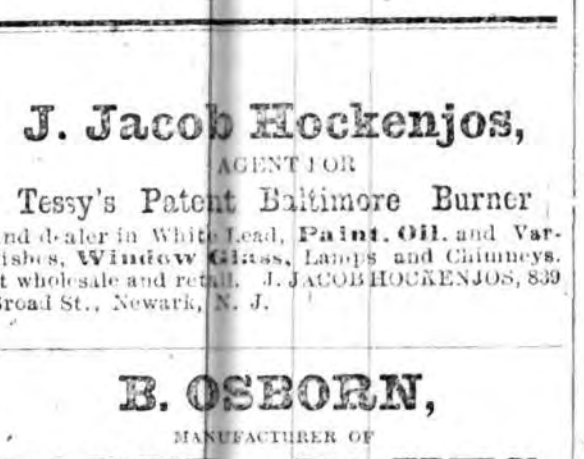


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The Fifth Gift will be paid weekly draw on July 30th, 1875. Capital Gift, \$100,000; Second Gift, \$50,000; Third Gift, \$25,000; Fourth Gift, \$10,000; Fifth Gift, \$5,000; Sixth Gift, \$2,500; and 10,000 smaller gifts.

which is paid to ticket holders at such drawing. This Lottery is conducted by the Legislature, and each drawing is supervised by the local authorities. An official list of names is published by mail to ticket holders as soon as published. Tickets for either \$1 each, for \$5, \$10, \$25, or \$50. Agents wanted. Unabridged Free sent free to everybody containing full particulars. Tickets sold up to the hour of drawing. Address: ALLEN & CO., 79 Nassau St., New York. 121-123.

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